GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2330
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
APPROVAL TO HOOMAN RIVER PROJECT
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to approve the Hooman River Project in Eastern Maharashtra despite its proximity to the Tiger Reserve and the National Park;

(b) if so, whether several alternatives to the above project recommended by the Bombay Natural History Society were given consideration by the Government before taking a decision to approve the above project;

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting the alternatives recommended by the society;

(d) whether construction of the above river project would submerge the only existing wild life corridor between the Chandrapur Forest Division and the Brahmapuri Forest Division; and

(e) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government to preserve the tiger and other wild life surrounding the project area?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Central Government has granted in-principle approval for diversion of 2906.28 ha. of forest land for Hooman River Project subject to certain stipulations.

(b) Bombay Natural History Society had not recommended any alternatives to the Central Government before grant of in-principle approval to this project.

(c) Does not rise

(d) & (e) A part of the wildlife corridor would be submerged due to implementation of this project. The stipulations contained in the in-principle approval provide adequate safeguards for protection of wildlife including tigers of the area. These safeguards are given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2330 REGARDING APPROVAL TO HOOMAN RIVER PROJECT DUE FOR REPLY ON 13.03.06

Stipulations in in-principle approval for protection of wildlife

(i) Crossing points of size 25 metres x 35 metres may be constructed at three locations on the left bank canal and the canal will be constructed underground in this portion.

(ii) The legal status of adjoining Srikada Protected Forest, Srikada Zudpi and the Sioni Protected Forest should be upgraded to reserved forest.

(iii) The areas lying between the periphery of the Andhari Wildlife Sancturary and the proposed submersion area comprising Karwa Reserved Forest, protected forest compartments, the evacuated village sites, and the draw-down areas should be upgraded to status of sanctuary.

(iv) Karwa Village which is, as of now, not included for rehabilitation as it is not being affected by the project, should also be rehabilitated because of the keenness evinced by the villagers.

(v) The State forest Department shall constitute an `Environment Monitoring Cell`, which shall be represented by experts of the relevants fields.

(vi) The protection infrastructure of the Tadoba-Andhrari Tiger Reserve should be upgraded along with a `recovery programme` for addressing the habitat issues. The project proponents shall provide funding support for these activities.

(vii) A time-bound `Action Programme for implementing the various activities, shall be prepared.